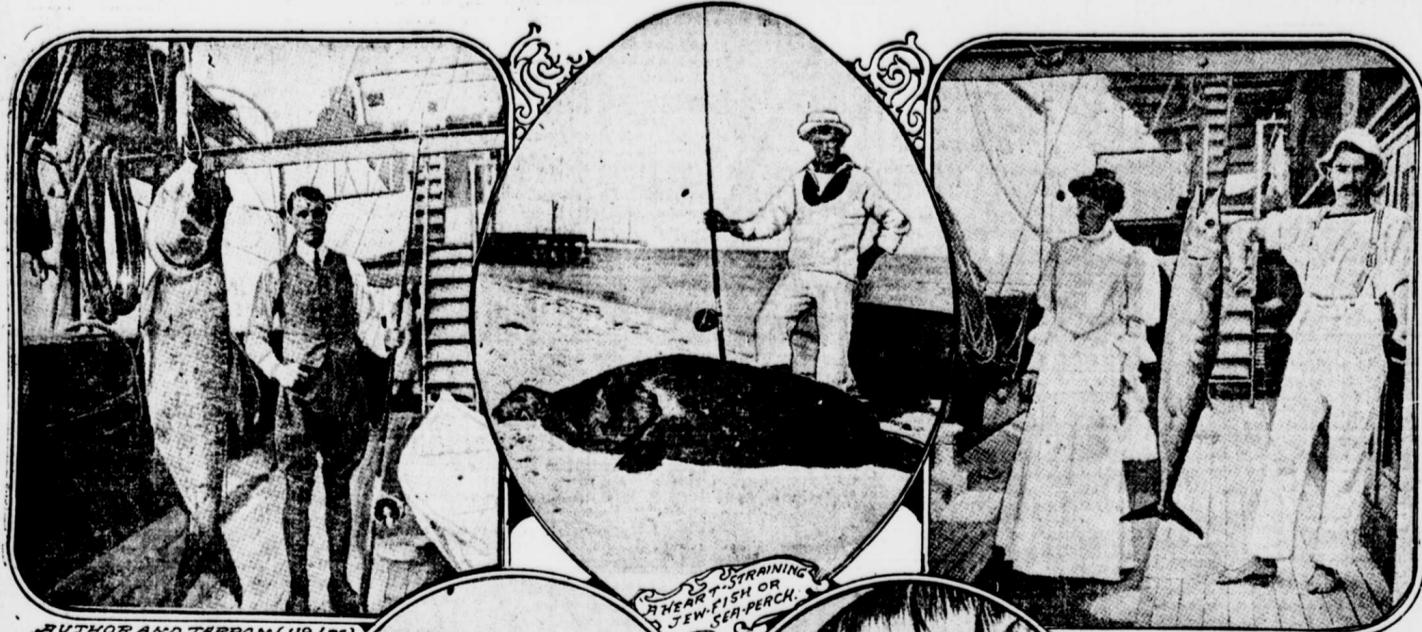


LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

REAL DESERT ISLANDS TOLD OF IN THIS BOOK



AUTHOR AND TARPON (119 LBS.)

A book that should delight the many lovers of romance, especially those who like most the tales of desert islands, has been brought out in America by Charles Scribner's Sons and is entitled "A Naturalist on Desert Islands." The author is Percy R. Lowe, a Cambridge man, and his narrative is not only truthful but full of surprises of the romantic sort.

Mr. Lowe had the good fortune in six consecutive winters to accompany Sir Frederic Johnston and his wife, Lady Wilton, on delightful yachting cruises in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. In the course of those cruises the steam yacht Zenaida, a boat of some 850 tons and belonging to Sir Frederic, visited almost every island, large or small, in these two basins of the sea, besides seeing something of the neighboring coasts of the mainland, Venezuela, Mexico and Florida. Many of the islands seen are far off the beaten track, seldom or never visited and to all intents and purposes nonexistent. The author claims for them but little historical or human interest and says frankly that they would bore the many who care not for solitude and delicious imaginings. But he found, and many readers will find with him, charm in the complete privacy and inaccessibility of these miles of land and in the sense of "exploration" felt in going among them.



BLANQUILLA - A CURIOUSLY ROUNDED BLOCK OF GRANITE.

are Swan Island, the most interesting and about which twelve unusually readable chapters have been written; Blanquilla Island and the Hermanos islands, which are seven.

The author, though a naturalist, has not burdened his tale with erudite discoveries he made. The story of Swan Island, longest of all, is the most interesting. In the '50s one Samuel Parsons, grandfather of a present native of the Grand Cayman,



"THE LONG SEAWARD MARGIN OF THE PLANTATION."

took possession of Swan. He was not the first to come there. Two men named Ailey and Page had gone to Swan ten years or so before but had not stayed. Nor did Parsons stay. He merely left a lot of goats on the island and went back to the Grand Cayman. After a good many years the present owner of Swan, described in the book as Mr. A., showed up, landed, ate up all the Parsons goats and settled for good and all. He was an old American



LADY WILTON WITH THE SMALLER OF HER TWO QUEEN-FISH.

sea captain and loneliness with peace was better in his view than seeking fortunes for others on the waters.

Mr. A. has a wife and two sons and the American family lives on Swan in great contentment. It has a comfortable house and negroes as servants and plenty of fruit. It is a lucky family. The American Fruit Company has a wireless relay station on its coral isle and the owner, in return for permitting the wire-

less station, has the right to stop a ship of the company whenever he wishes. So that touch with the outside world is feasible at all times and books, papers and magazines are readily to be got.

On Blanquilla Island the yacht's folk found a hermit. According to his own account he was the brother of the man who rented the island from Venezuela and who lived, a true patriarch, in the homestead on the other end of the island. The hermit chose to live apart from the only family within miles and miles of him. A true hermit!

The chapters on Los Hermanos islands have naturally a good deal to say about birds, for birds are the only inhabitants of those seven rocky little wastes. Gannets, which every sailor knows, were found nesting on the island Orquilla to the tune of three species; the red footed gannet, the booby and the blue faced gannet. The red footed was most common the blue faced being rather rare. Then there were frigate birds and the boatswain bird. Its cry is highly unpleasant but the body of the boatswain bird is of a most dazzling whiteness that makes it wholly worthy of its Latin name, Phaeton aethurus. Many other species of birds also were found on islands of the Hermanos group.

The author has illustrated his book with maps of his own making, very large and clearly drawn and pleasantly full of detail. There are thirty-two full page photographs.

Fourth Large Printing Already

Lonesome Land

By
B. M. BOWER
Author of
"Chip of the Flying U," etc.

No novelist has written of ranch life in the Northwestern United States with more intimate knowledge and a truer and racier pen. In "Lonesome Land" she has dipped a little more deeply into the inherent tragedies of "raw, new land."

Her pictures of the region are as true as words can make them, and she has so worked them into the story that they are not descriptions of landscape, but a part of the moral and physical environment—dynamic influences upon the people of her story.—New York Times.

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Eleanor Ingram
Colored Illustrations By
James Montgomery Flagg

The speed never slackens and one turns the pages breathlessly, as thrill succeeds thrill until the final big race.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

A NEGRO EXPLORER AS AN AUTHOR

Matthew Henson's Book About the Trip to the North Pole With Peary.

ARCTIC LITERARY STUDIES

Early Lack of Schooling and the Part the Bible and Shakespeare Had in Forming His Style.

extensive library, especially on Arctic and Antarctic topics, but as it was in the Commander's cabin it was not heavily patronized. In my own cabin I had Dickens's "Bleak House," Kipling's "Barrack Room Ballads," and the poems of Thomas Hood; also a copy of the Holy Bible which had been given to me by a dear old lady in Brooklyn. I also had Peary's book "Northward Over the Great Ice" and his last work, "Nearest the Pole."

"During the long dreary midnights of the Arctic winter I spent many a pleasant hour with my books. I also took along with me a calendar for the years 1908 and 1909, for in the regions of noontday darkness and midnight daylight, a calendar is absolutely necessary. But mostly I had rougher things than reading to do."

In his book the English used by this negro, who had only six years of schooling in his life, shows the influence of his constant reading of classical literature. It has been said that there is no better cultivator of a literary style than the Bible, and the work of Henson would seem to bear the statement out. Shakespeare is there too, seemingly unconsciously on the author's part. For instance:

"We forced the dogs," he writes, "and they took it on the run, the ice undulating beneath them the same as it does when little wanton boys play at tickle benders, often with serious results, on the newly formed ice on ponds and brooks down in civilization. Our tickle benders were not done in the spirit of play, but on account of urgent necessity."

"He died alone, he passed into the great unknown alone, bravely and honorably," he writes with Biblical simplicity and repetition of the death of Prof. Marvin.

"He is the last of Earth's great martyrs; he is home, his work is done, he is where he longed to be, the Sailor is Home in the Sea. It is sad to write this. He went back to his death, drowned in the cold black water of the Big Lead. In unmarked, unmarbled grave, he sleeps his last, long sleep."

"Having no poetry in my soul," he says in a description of northernmost Grant Land, "and being somewhat hardened by years of experience in this inhospitable country, words proper to give you an idea of its unique beauty do not come to mind. Its immense gorgeous bleakness, beautiful bleakness, never seems bright, bright day, even in the middle of June, and the sky has the different effects of the varying hours of morning and evening twilight from the first to the last peep of day. Early in February, at noon, a thin band of light appears far to the southward, heralding the approach of the sun, and daily the twilight lengthens, until early in March, the sun, a flaming disk of fiery crimson, shows his distorted image above the horizon.

"For days south sides of the lofty peaks have for days reflected the glory of the coming sun, and it does not require an artist to enjoy the unexampled splendor of the view. The snows covering the peaks show the full of the colors, various and tones of the artist's palette and more. Artists have gone with us into the Arctic and I have heard them rave over the wonderful beauties of the scene and I have seen them at work trying to reproduce some of it with good results, but with nothing like the effect of the original.

"It is color run riot, and the sky is blue and bright, bluer than the sky of the Mediterranean, and the clouds, from the silky cirrus mare's tail to the fantastic heavy cumulus, are always objects of beauty. This is the description of fine weather."

The closing paragraph of the negro

explorer's record is particularly interesting, for into it he weaves two of his favorite authors, Shakespeare and Kipling.

"And now my story is ended; it is a tale that is told," he writes. "Now is Othello's occupation gone. I long to see them see again, the brave, cheery companions of the trail of the north. I long to see again the lithe figure of my commander and to hear again his clear ringing voice and encouraging me onward with his 'Well done, my boy.' I want to be with the party when they reach the untrod shores of Crocker Land; I want to be with those who reach the south pole; the lure of the Arctic is tugging at my heart; to me the trail is calling."

"The old trail! The trail that is always new!"

Matt Henson was born in Charles county, Maryland, in 1866, and his mother dying when he was 7, he attended the N street school in Washington for six years while making his home with his uncle in that city. He began life as a cabin boy on an ocean steamship and before he met Peary he had already made a voyage to China.

He was 18 when he met the Arctic explorer and he has been his companion for twenty-three years. During that time he acquired a knowledge of books and got a practical understanding of everything that is a necessary part of daily life in the ice-bound wildernesses of exploration. He was at times a blacksmith, a carpenter and a cook.

He became thoroughly acquainted with the life, customs and language of the Eskimos. He himself built the sledges with which the journey to the pole was successfully completed. He could not only drive a dog team or skin a musk ox but was something of a navigator as well. He made himself not only the most trusted but also the most useful member of the expedition.

THE MAKING OF BOOKS.

Moffat, Yard & Co. announce the forthcoming publication of a new novel, "The Blind Road," by Hugh Gordon, a story of married life under metropolitan influences; "Big Business and Government," by Charles Norman Fay; "The Sentence of Silence," by Reginald Wright Kauffman; "On the Trail to Sunset," a travel romance with scenes set on the plains and mountains.

"Woman and the New York Law," a book dealing with the legal rights and obligations of women in this State, has just been published by Dr. George James Bayles of Columbia University. The work is the forerunner of a series of similar digests of the law relating to women in each of the States of the Union, a plan suggested at the national convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs two years ago.

Jeffery Farnol's first book, published several years ago as a holiday issue, was brought out in novel form on February 21 by Dodd, Mead & Co. It is called "My Lady Caprice."

Dodd, Mead & Co. published on February 21 the following new books: "The Essential Thing," a novel by Arthur Hodges treating of New York society life; "The Butterfly House," by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman; "The Challenge of Courage," a story of a man and a girl snowed in among the Rocky Mountains, by Cyrus Townsend Brady; "Death," an essay by Maurice Maeterlinck; and George Saintsbury's "History of English Criticism."

It is reported that Richard Pryce's latest novel, "Christopher," which has just been published in America, is now in its third edition in England.

A new English poet will be introduced to American readers with the publication this week by Mitchell Kennerly of "Poems" by Gerald Gould. This author's first volume was through several editions in England.

Henry Holt & Co. report that they are

having to print Bergson's "Creative Evolution" for the seventh time, an eleventh edition of F. Paulsen's "Introduction to Philosophy," tenth edition of H. C. Adams' "Science of Finance," a fifth edition of Carl Bucher's "Industrial Evolution" and second editions of two recent books, Frederic Taber Cooper's "Some Representative American Story Tellers" and Dean Hodges' book for young people, "Saints and Heroes."

The Holts have arranged for the publication in German by Messrs. Ensell & Laiblin of Reutlingen of Burton E. Stevenson's "That Affair at Elizabeth." This is the third of this author's books to appear by the translator, Jacques des Caehon. "Science of Finance," the previous volumes being "The Holiday Case" and "The Marathon Mystery," the latter having also been translated into Italian.

The short stories of Ralph D. Paine have found recognition in Paris, where sea tales are held in high favor, and seven of the stories, mostly of the sea, after having appeared in French journals, have now been collected into a book, with an introduction by the translator, Jacques des Caehon. These seven stories are to be included in a volume to be published this spring by the Sturgis and Walton Company under the title "The Judgments of the Sea and Other Stories."

Other books announced by the Sturgis and Walton Company for early spring publication are "The Genetic Philosophy of Education," Dr. G. E. Partridge's summary of Dr. G. Stanley Hall's philosophy; and "The Drunkard," a novel by Guy Thorne, dealing with the psychology of the inebriated.

Harper and Brothers announce that they are reprinting this week two of their books: "Mary Cary," by Kate Langley Bosher, and "The War With Spain," by Henry Cabot Lodge.

Appropos of the successful dramatization of "Little Women" it is stated that over three million copies of Miss Alcott's books have been sold in the United States alone, and that the sale of "Little Women" throughout the English speaking world exceeds one million.

Margaret Deland's novel "The Iron Woman" is being put into the Braille text for the use of the blind. It is stated that this is one of the few current novels taken up in this way, as only older books and classics are as a rule put into the expensive form for reading by the blind.

Probably the earliest of the Scribner novels, it is reported, will be Ramsay Benson's "A Knight in Denim," a story laid in a Nebraska farming community.

The Scribners report that "The Referendum, Initiative and Recall in America," a new edition of E. P. Oberholzer's "Referendum in America," though published only a month ago has already run into its second printing.

Col. Roosevelt has written to Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick his opinion of the latter's two volume history of the Spanish-American war, which has just been published by the Scribners. He says: "I cannot deny myself the pleasure of writing to you to congratulate you upon and thank you for writing your admirable book upon the Spanish war. It seems to me to be exactly the book that was needed, written, as it is, with serene impartiality and after exhaustive study of the subject by a man who was a participant in the war, and who in addition to the naval—that is, the broad sense of the word, military—training of the practical kind necessary to enable him to do his part well in the actual work of the campaign also possesses the kind of learning in military matters which is indispensable if a valuable military work is to be written, but which does not at all times accompany military ability.

"Your book is written along novel lines, but it is the kind of novelty that is of per-

ZULEIKA DOBSON

A NOVEL BY MAX BEERBOHM, "ZULEIKA DOBSON," will be as astounding to novel readers as "Don Quixote" was to the chivalry-loving knights of old. It is the story of a beautiful, innocent girl, a prestidigitator in vaudeville, who captivated two continents and brought all of young Oxford to her feet. In the hand of the incomparable Max the story of love's champion is as entrancing and no less humorous in its own individual way as ever were the adventures of the irresistible Spanish Don.

PUBLISHED TO-DAY

ZULEIKA DOBSON, a novel full of the magnetism of living people, by Max Beerbohm, author of "Yes Agony," "The Happy Hypocrite," etc., is an important announcement of 1912. Cover design by E. Steaton Crawford. Cloth, \$1.30 net; post, 12c.

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WHEN TRAGEDY GRINS

By Grace Miller White
Author of "Tess of the Storm Country"

W. J. WATT & CO., Publishers, New York

